



PRESS RELEASE

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Head tax on Chinese immigrants

THE BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS SAYS THERE'S STILL WORK TO BE DONE TO REDRESS THE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CHINESE-CANADIANS

Ottawa, Wednesday, June 27, 2007 – On June 22, 2006, the 1st anniversary of the public apology from the Canadian government to members of the Chinese community about the shameful head tax imposed on Chinese immigrants, **Meili Faille**, the Bloc Québécois Citizenship and Immigration Critic and MP for Vaudreuil–Soulanges, said that the fight to redress the harm done to Quebecers and Canadians of Chinese origin is not over.

“The Bloc Québécois recognizes that progress has been made, since Ottawa finally acknowledged that the entry fee of up to \$500 imposed on Chinese immigrants was discriminatory and since it publicly apologized. We feel however that the Canadian government must accompany that apology with financial reparations, not only for the survivors but also for their direct descendants. These are the people who were directly affected by the measures of that era,” **Ms Faille** said today.

The Bloc Critic pointed out that, along with the 250 survivors and spouses who received a symbolic amount, some 4000 direct descendants are also entitled to receive compensation for the harm caused and the loss of revenue they suffered at that time. “It is not only an injustice, but also a grave offence committed against our Chinese-Canadian fellow citizens. It is a dark episode in Canada’s immigration history and reparations should be offered to send a message that Canada will never make the same mistake again,” **Ms Faille** concluded.

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